

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend Claims 1, 7, and 12 as shown in the claim listing.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

(Currently Amended) 1. A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a laminar plate generally coextensive with a lower surface of the mailbox;

means for securing the mailbox to the plate;

a one-piece, generally cylindrical sleeve secured to the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

means for securing the post within the sleeve.

(Original) 2. The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the laminar plate is rectangular and has a pair of long edges.

(Original) 3. The bracket according to claim 2, wherein the means for securing the mailbox to the plate further comprises:

a flange on each of the long edges of the plate extending generally perpendicular to the plate; and

at least one fastener securing the flange to a corresponding flange on the mailbox.

(Original) 4. The bracket according to claim 3 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.

(Original) 5. The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the means for securing the post within the sleeve further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to the post.

(Original) 6. The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the plate is provided with a plurality of lightening holes.

(Currently Amended) 7. A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having an upper surface and a lower surface and a pair of long edges, the upper surface of the plate being generally coextensive with and supporting a lower surface of the mailbox;

at least one flange on a long edge of the plate, the flange extending generally perpendicular to and downwardly from the lower surface of the plate;

at least one fastener for securing the flange to the mailbox;

a generally continuous cylindrical sleeve secured to lower surface of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

a sleeve fastener for securing the post within the sleeve.

(Original) 8. The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the sleeve fastener further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to the post.

(Original) 9. The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.

(Original) 10. The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the plate is provided with a plurality of lightening holes.

(Original) 11. The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the flange extends from each long edge of the rectangular plate.

(Currently Amended) 12. A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having an upper surface and a lower surface and a pair of long edges and a pair of short edges, the upper surface of the plate being generally coextensive with and supporting a lower surface of the mailbox;

a plurality of lightening holes formed in the plate

at flange extending along each long edge of the plate generally perpendicular to and downwardly from the lower surface of the plate;

at least one fastener for securing the flanges to corresponding flanges on the the mailbox;

a generally cylindrical, continuous, and one-piece sleeve secured to lower surface of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

a sleeve fastener for securing the post within the sleeve.

(Original) 13. The bracket according to claim 12 wherein the sleeve fastener further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to the post.

(Original) 14. The bracket according to claim 12 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.